

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 13223 051612Z

51

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 IO-04 OMB-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /067 W

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R 051433Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1757

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ADDIS ABABA 13223

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV PINS ET

SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT ORDERS DETAINEES TO RETURN BUILDINGS AND
CARS

1. ETHIOPIAN HERALD 5 NOVEMBER CARRIED ORDER OF PROVISIONAL
MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (EMAC) FOR 39 FORMER (DETAINED)
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND MEMBERS OF DEPOSED EMPEROR'S FAMILY TO
HAND BACK TO GOVERNMENT, BUILDINGS AND VILLAS "ILLEGALLY GIVEN"
THEM BY OLD REGIME. BUILDINGS TO BE RETURNED BY DETAINEES
RELATIVES OR AGENTS NLT 1 P.M. NOVEMBER 24 ON PENALTY OF "NATION-
ALIZATION." BUILDINGS WERE CONSTRUCTED DURING FIVE YEAR ITALIAN
OCCUPATION AND ASSERTEDLY GIVEN TO MEMBER OF DEPOSED EMPEROR'S
FAMILY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO DID NOT TAKE PART "IN STRUGGLE
FOR LIBERATION OF COUNTRY." THUS BUILDINGS, ACCORDING TO ARTICLE,
BELONG TO "THE PEOPLE." ARTICLE CONTINUES THAT CERTAIN DOCUMENTS
SHOW ABOUT 223 SUCH BUILDINGS, VILLAS, AND APARTMENTS TO HAVE BEEN
HANDED OUT TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS (WHICH MAY INDICATE THAT FURTHER
SIMILAR ANNOUNCEMENTS COULD BE FORTHCOMING.) WHILE ARTICLE NAMES
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 13223 051612Z

ONLY FIVE RECIPIENTS, RADIO ETHIOPIA LISTED 31 NAMES INCLUDING

PROMINENT FORMER CABINET/IEG MEMBERS SUCH AS AKLILU HABTE-WOLD, ENDALKATCHEW MAKONNEN, RAS ASRATE KASSA; ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS SUCH AS PRINCESS TENAGNE WORQ AND PRINCE MAKONNEN, AND PROMINENT MILITARY MEN SUCH AT LT. GEN. ABIY ABEBE AND LT. GEN. ASSEFA AYENE.

2. EMAC, SAME DAY, ORDERED RETIRED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, ARMY AND POLICE OFFICERS TO RETURN TO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CARS GIVEN THEM PRIOR TO THEIR RETIREMENT. DEADLINE FOR TURN-IN IN ADDIS ABABA IS 1 P.M. NOVEMBER 9, AND FOR THOSE OUTSIDE OF CAPITAL, NOVEMBER 19.

3. FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENT RADIO ETHIOPIA, SAME DAY, INDICATES THAT COMMISSION OF INQUIRY HAS FINISHED INVESTIGATION INTO WOLLO DROUGHT AND REPORT WILL BE RELEASED 5 OR 6 NOVEMBER. NEXT AREA OF INQUIRY FOR COMMISSION CONCERNS THOSE ACCUSED OF MALADMINISTRATION, CORRUPTION AND UNLAWFUL ENRICHMENT (CF ADDIS ABABA 131-73).

4. COMMENT: REQUIREMENT FOR RETURN OF VILLAS GIVEN BY EX-EMPEROR, AS WELL AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED REQUIREMENT TO RETURN CARS GIVEN AS PRESENTS BY HIM, SUGGESTS THAT LAND GIVEN AS GIFTS MAY BE NEXT IN LINE FOR CONFISCATION.
WYMAN

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